MiG-21 crashes

1098. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MiG-21 crashes during the past three years alongwith total loss in terms of life and property;

(b) the reasons for Government's failure to check the same; and

(c) the details of steps taken, if any, to prevent the increasing number of accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) A total number of 10 MiG-21 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) have crashed during the last three financial years from 2004-2005 to 2007-2008 (till 13.8.2007). In these accidents a total number of 7 persons lost their lives.

Besides the loss of aircraft, compensation amounting to Rs. 40,49,853/- has also been paid on account of service personnel/civilian killed/injured and loss to the civil property in these accidents.

(b) and (c) Each aircraft accident in the IAF is investigated through a Court of Inquiry (CoI) and remedial measures as per the recommendations of the CoI are taken. Besides, a continuous and multi-faceted effort is always underway to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), both indigenous and foreign, is also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Delivery of Scorpene submarines

1099. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the delivery schedule originally agreed for the delivery of Scorpene submarines;

(b) whether it is a fact that the delivery of such submarines could be deferred due to delay in sanctions from France;

(c) if so, whether Government has taken up the issue with the concerned authorities in the French Government and the manufacturers, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government has contradicted the media reports in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) The first submarine is scheduled to be delivered in December, 2012 and thereafter one submarine each year till December, 2017.